

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

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A tube plate (10) for tube bundles for chemical reactors and heat exchangers in general, ~~comprises~~ includes a plurality of components (11, 12), with a shapes which is that are complementary to one another, in order to form a complete plate (10), ~~wherein~~ the The components (11, 12) ~~are~~ may be produced separately, and are connected to one another subsequently by means of mechanical joints, in order to form the tube plate (10). The components (11, 12) which form the tube plate (10) are joined to one another by ~~means~~ of a plurality of pins (15), or other mechanical connections, which are inserted in corresponding holes provided in the respective components, ~~(11, 12)~~. This joint can be completed by means of welded connections on the mechanical connection parts.

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